

*Rockhurst College*

CITATION FOR HONORARY DEGREE

CONFERRED ON

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

"Committed to the service of the contemporary world."

These words, taken from the Rockhurst College mission statement, aptly describe William Hedgcock Webster.

Judge Webster, through his career and his life's philosophy, has committed himself to service in the contemporary world. As director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he is responsible in large part for our country's reputation in and its ability to have an effect on our contemporary world, a task for which he is well qualified.

Called "the straightest straight arrow in Washington" by Newsweek, Webster brought a new emphasis on honesty and discretion in the enforcement of the nation's laws to the CIA, guiding that agency from the "deepening muck of the Iran-Contra affair." At this critical point in history our intelligence efforts required a man of respect and trust, a man of ethics and morals. That man was William Webster.

He has a reputation as Washington's most successful Mr. Fixit. He is widely credited with having continued the restoration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's morale and reputation begun by Director Clarence M. Kelley. Judge Webster, as he prefers to be called, used his immense knowledge of the law in that position to foster respect for human rights and liberties.

The honoree began his illustrious public service career in 1949 as a St. Louis lawyer. He served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri from 1960 to 1961, then returned to private practice. In 1970 he

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was appointed judge of the U.S. District Court in eastern Missouri. Three years later he was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Although content with his judgeship, when a greater duty called in 1978 Webster became FBI director. He ably led the Bureau's efforts for nine years and was considering a return to private life, when again the call to service came. On May 26, 1987, William Webster was sworn in as Director of the CIA.

His dedication to service has earned him many accolades. He was named Man of the Year in 1980 by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and in 1981 received the William Greenleaf Elliot Award from Washington University. He has also been honored with the Fordham Law School Louis Stein Award, the International Platform Association Theodore Roosevelt Award for excellence in public service and the Jefferson Award for the Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official. In 1985 he was presented the Freedoms Foundation National Service Medal and the First Annual Patrick V. Murphy Award from the Washington Police Foundation for distinguished service in law enforcement.

William Webster's life and career stand as testimony of his service to the contemporary world. Fr. Weiss, on behalf of the Committee on Honors and Awards, it is an honor and a pleasure to present to you a most worthy candidate for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.